It has been more than twenty-five years since Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term *intersectionality* to capture how race, class, and gender, among other identity variables, interconnect to create the multiple oppressions that Black feminists and feminists of color had been describing for at least one hundred and thirty years since Sojourner Truth gave her famous ‘Ain’t I a Woman?’ speech in Akron, Ohio in 1851. In her groundbreaking 1989 article, Crenshaw focused specifically on the intersection of race and sex in anti-discrimination cases in the lives of Black women. Since then, a wide range of theoretical and empirical work has emerged in Critical Race, Feminist, Post-Colonial, Queer, and Women’s and Gender Studies, utilizing intersectional approaches to understand how interlocking systems of oppression based on categories of race, class, sex, gender, sexuality, nation, ethnicity, coloniality, (dis)ability, etc. shape the possibilities and limitations in people’s lives.

As students, we stand lifted on the shoulders of these great leaders and thinkers before us who fought and still continue to fight, in a variety of ways, towards a more egalitarian future. From Sojourner Truth to Kimberlé Crenshaw and so many others, we have been gifted with a path that we can look to for guidance to see more clearly where we must go next with our theories and practices of intersectionality. Intersectionality is not only an awareness of the ways in which multiple oppressions work to create a complex social hierarchy, but it can also be interpreted as an awareness of all parts of ourselves. Through an analysis of our personal lives, we are able to better understand the ways that our actions and interactions affect our identities and the identities around us. Therefore, as students, we must ask ourselves: what have we learned and what must we do? What is the meaning of intersectionality in the 21st century? What still remains divided in our own lives and in our own society? In what ways have we blurred the lines between the “Personal and the Political”? In what ways have we become active in spaces that exist outside of the classroom?

For this sponsored student panel at SEWSA 2016, abstracts are solicited from undergraduate and graduate students for papers from across the academic disciplines addressing the conference theme of intersectionality within the field of Women’s and Gender Studies. Submit 200-word abstracts by Nov. 20 to be considered for the Student Caucus panel. The completed paper you will present should be at least 10 double-spaced pages in 12 pt Times New Roman font. Paper abstracts not selected for the panel are automatically forwarded to the general conference selection committee for consideration. Please e-mail sewsastudents@winthrop.edu for any questions, comments, or concerns regarding your paper submission.

Suggested topics for paper proposals include:

- intersections of gender, race, class, sexuality, etc. in history, politics, art, law, science, culture, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, essays, speeches, and letters that point to challenges and opportunities in women’s lives

- how the conceptual and/or methodological framework of intersectionality can help us address some of the most difficult issues of our time, i.e. war, terrorism, police brutality, gun violence

- real life experiences or stories that inspire you to influence the new wave of feminism or urge you to advocate for equal rights (Black Lives Matter movement, reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ rights, etc.)

- any other topics related to Women’s and Gender Studies